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PETROLEUM PLAN FULFILLMENT METHODS IN ALBANIA

At the beginning of May 1952, the active of the party organization for the Stalin Petroleum Combine met to discuss the petroleum plan. Koco Theodosi, a member of the party's Central Committee, reported to the meeting on the resolutions of the party's Second Congress.

According to another one of the speakers, the party organization for the petroleum combine had done its duty toward the successful fulfillment of the state plan and would always do so. In its everyday work, he asserted, the party organization had taken a leading party in socialist competition for the dissemination of Soviet methods, including the Kafarov method of high-speed drilling of wells, and other advanced methods. Thus the Patos oil field workers had won the Red Banner of the Council of Ministers in the third and fourth quarters of 1951. In the first quarter of 1952, they had earned the banners of the Second Party Congress and the Council of Ministers.

This speaker claimed that the model brigade at Patos, under the leadership of Petro Olldashi, had begun drilling for the 1953 plan at the beginning of May 1952. He also noted the growth of the Stakhanovite Movement. The number of leading workers and Stakhanovites had reached 2,361. Twenty-three model brigades had been formed, as compared with one in 1951. In addition, 10 brigades were strong candidates.

It was felt in the meeting that socialist competition would succeed if proper organizational measures were taken to ensure its development. Communist Sule Kurti, in charge of the model brigade at the Patos oil field, said that socialist competition would not be promoted merely by such means as graphs or honor charts. Concrete assistance was needed. He explained that the union groups had not been controlled and assisted by Ligor Binjaku, the head of the union committee. He added that the primary party organization had not considered the problem of socialist competition as its cardinal duty, so that it had not taken serious measures to improve the situation.

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The meeting criticized the inadequate work of the primary party organizations, directors, and union committees of some enterprises, which had failed to take an interest in socialist competition. For example, the Kosare construction unit of the drilling section of the combine had been lagging behind in popularizing competition results. Petro Gjoza accused certain coworkers of placing obstacles in his way instead of promoting the extension of socialist competition.

Another example is the case of the local union committee members and those of the BRPSh (League of Albanian Working Youth) Committee of the combine as well as certain other Communist leaders were ready to withdraw the title of Model Youth Brigade from Bitumen No 3 because it did not fulfill all the conditions of a model brigade. The local union committee and the petroleum combine committee of BRPSh had not given any concrete help in organizing socialist competition. It was proven that when this youth brigade was given local help the bitumen production increased greatly. In the first quarter of 1952, the youth of the model brigade produced 410 tons of bitumen more than planned and saved 31,000 leks.

Fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan was also dependent on the progressive initiative of the workers. In the Stalin Petroleum Combine, for example, workers had made 142 rationalization proposals by the end of March 1952. Of these, 79 were approved; thus 9,378,270 leks were saved.

The application of Soviet methods was called one of the primary factors in the rationalization of production. The leaders of the Stalin City Petroleum Combine were criticized because introduction of the Levchenko-Mukhanov method had been slow. The reason given for this delay was that the former director, Sotir Terpini, was too friendly with the factory engineer, Muhamer Sale, and stifled any criticism of the engineer.

The meeting discussed the 3-year course in Stalin City where 89 students are engaged in the technical study of petroleum, and a practical reserve school where personnel are trained for the combine. It was noted that preparation of workers in special qualification courses was necessary to ensure high production and fulfillment of the Five-Year-Plan. But even in this discussion there was criticism. Qemal Cuko, a party member, cited as an example the course on pumping, given in Stalin City, which was attended by only 28 percent of the registered students. The reason ascribed was the lack of interest displayed by the party organizations and directors. Another criticism was made that in the distillation plant, although there were three or four qualified engineers, the teaching was left to a man who was not capable of directing the course.

Jordan Pano said that many workers did not master their trades as they should. He charged that Teki Aliaj, secretary of the primary organization, and Polikron Cane, director of the enterprise, did not understand that this was a primary problem which the party organization should analyze before taking serious measures. He charged that they held meetings where they talked about the absence of one worker or about another who had not properly serviced his motor, but that they had failed to consider what had been done and what must be done to improve the techniques of the workers and their attendance at special qualification courses.

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